

**CREDITON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

1920.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR

Year ending December 31st, 1920.

CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1920, and I am glad to say that the health and statistics for this year are matters for congratulation, in that there was a higher number of births, and (with the exception of last year), a lower number of deaths than there have been for some years.

BIRTHS.

The number of births this year were 216, compared with 138 last year. This gives a percentage of 21.8 per 1000 population.

The last time we were anywhere near this number was in 1915, when the births were 215.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 149—which gives a rate of 15.0.

Last year there were 118 deaths, that being very much lower than it had been for many years.

Still, this does not compare favourably with the death rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 12.4.

Of these deaths 34 were between 70 and 80 years of age, 18 between 80 and 90, and 2 over 90 years. So, considerably more than a third of those who died were over 70 years of age.

The chief causes were :—

Cancer 13.

Organic Heart Disease 17.

Pneumonia 8.

Different forms of Tubercle 17.

The number of deaths under one year of age was 14, or a percentage of 64.8 per 1000. This compares well with the whole country, the percentage being 80 per 1000.

We had only one death from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, which speaks well for the feeding and care of the children in this district.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were three deaths from Whooping Cough this year, one from Diphtheria, four from Influenza, and 17 from different forms of Tubercle.

The deaths from Tubercle, I am sorry to say, show a considerable increase from last year, when there were only eight.

It is a matter for regret that we had a death from Diphtheria this year. Last year there were none.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Tubercle 17.
Diphtheria 2.
Scarlet Fever 22.
Anthrax 2.
Erysipelas 3.
Ophthalmia 4.

The Scarlet Fever cases have been very mild, and there have been no deaths, and they have practically all been scattered about the Cheriton Fitzpaine district, and extending over a long period. So it has been impossible to trace the source of infection.

The Anthrax cases were :—one in Morchard Bishop, the result of infection from a shaving brush, and resulting in death. The other in Shobrooke, which recovered.

The Ophthalmia cases were all quite mild and made perfect recoveries.

VACCINATIONS.

Once more I wish to bring before your notice the danger that is arising from the number of babies that are not vaccinated. From enquiries I am quite certain that certificates are being granted to a large number of parents who have no real conscientious objection to vaccination. I cannot help thinking that some of those in authority are incurring a great deal of responsibility by granting these certificates without making very careful enquiries.

HOUSING.

A few new houses are being built, but what is better still, a good start is being made to improve those that are still in existence. And although some work of this description has been carried out within the last two years, I hope the Council will help me to make considerable progress in this work during the next year or two.

BAKEHOUSES, SLAUGHTERHOUSES & DAIRIES.

I have inspected several Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses during the year, and found them well kept. I should like the Sanitary Inspector to make frequent visits to Farm Dairies, as milk is an article of food which is very easily contaminated.

WATER SUPPLY.

Morchard Bishop. A large number of these wells have been put into a more satisfactory condition ; and with the work that is now being arranged for, I think this village will be well up to the average with its supply.

Cheriton Fitzpaine. A good well in the middle of the village has been given to the Council, and as soon as satisfactory work is done on this well, it will be of great assistance to the supply of this village.

SCHOOLS.

Several of these have been inspected and found satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

L. POWNE. M.O.H.

TABLE I

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920 and previous Years.

Name of District—Credition Rural

Year.	Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.	Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.				
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		
			Number.				Rate.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	No.	Rate
1916	10044		151	14.9			12	79.8	154	14.9	
1917	9274		168	16.2			10	59.3	153	16.4	
1918	9235		131	12.6			12	91.6	156	16.8	
1919	9926		138	13.9			8	58.0	118	12.3	
1920	9906		216	21.8			14	64.8	149	15.0	

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water), 93,508.

Total population at all ages, 10,639.

Total families or separate occupiers,

} At Census,
} 1911.

TABLE III.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1920 in the
Crediton Rural District.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One
Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	Certified (Uncertified)										
Small-pox											
Chicken-pox											
Measles											
Scarlet Fever											
Whooping Cough... ..				I		I	2				
Diphtheria and Croup											
Erysipelas											
Tuberculous Meningitis											
Abdominal Tuberculosis											
Other Tuberculous Diseases											
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)											
Convulsions		I				I					
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis											
Pneumonia (all forms)							I				
Diarrhoea											
Enteritis							I				
Gastritis											
Syphilis											
Rickets											
Suffocation, overlying							I				
Injury at Birth											
Atelectasis											
Congenital Malformations											
Premature Birth		2				2					
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		I	I			2					
Other Causes		I				I	I		I		
Totals		5	I	I		7	6		I		14

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 208 ; Illegitimate, 8

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 14 ; Illegitimate Infants, 1



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**CREDITON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

1920.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR

Year ending December 31st, 1920.

TO THE CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1920, and I am glad to say that the health and statistics for this year are a matter for congratulation, in that there were a higher number of births and a lower number of deaths than has been the case for many years.

BIRTHS.

The births during the year were 76, and with the population calculated as 3,452 gives a rate of 22.0, compared with last year's 42 births and rate of 12.1. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1920 was 25.4.

Of the total number of births 5 were illegitimate.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 53, giving a rate of 15.35, compared with 17.1 the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 12.4. Of these deaths 11 were over 80 years of age, 8 between 70 and 80, and 12 between 60 and 70, making a percentage of the deaths over 60 years 58.5 of the total.

The chief causes of death were :—

Cancer 7.

Heart Disease 7.

Tuberculosis 4.

There were 7 deaths under 1 year of age, which gives a rate of 92 per 1,000 births, compared with 80 per 1,000 for England and Wales. Of these 7, 3 were due to premature birth and only survived a few hours.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A centre for this has been established in the district, and a clinic is held every Thursday, in a room kindly lent by the local Red Cross Detachment. Thanks to the energy and keenness of the Health Visitor, Mid-wife and Committee this has proved a great success. A large number of mothers and babies attend at each meeting.

NOTIFICATIONS.

There were 4 cases of Diphtheria, 3 of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Dysentery notified during the year. One severe case of Diphtheria was removed to the Sanatorium at Exeter, and treated at the parents' expense. The other cases were treated

at their homes. The cases occurred sporadically in different parts of the town, and I could trace no connection between them. Isolation was adequately carried out in each case treated at home. Two cases of Malaria were reported among demobilised soldiers, and these received treatment from the Devon and Exeter Hospital. There were 12 cases of Tuberculosis reported during the year. These were all notified to the County M.O.H. As far as my knowledge goes there are no cases of Tuberculosis unnotified in the Town. There were no cases of either Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

VACCINATION.

Once more I wish to bring before your notice the danger that is arising from the number of babies that are unvaccinated.

During the past year no less than 22 exemptions were granted out of the 55 cases registered. I am convinced that in the majority of cases it is not a true conscientious objection but parents do not wish the bother. Some mothers have even admitted that they appreciate the protection it gives, but as there has been no Small-pox here recently there will be plenty of time when it comes. This, I need hardly say, is a very near sighted policy, and surely does not constitute conscientious objection, and which if pursued by all must lead to the re-introduction of this most dread disease which has been so effectively kept down by vaccination.

HOUSING.

As in all my previous reports I call your attention to the shortage of houses of all classes. No houses have been built and none commenced during the year, though the plans for ten have been passed and are waiting return from the Ministry of Health.

As a result of this shortage there are several cases of overcrowding. But I have satisfied myself that in the majority of cases the tenants have made efforts to find adequate alternative accomodation and cannot do so. So I do not recommend any action being taken in these cases, until further accomodation is available.

Also several houses have been allowed to fall into a state of dis-repair, notably those in Park Street, and the one in Queen's Place, which have already been brought before your notice by your Surveyor.

BAKEHOUSES, SLAUGHTER HOUSES & DAIRIES.

There are 8 Bakehouses, 12 Slaughter-houses and 12 Dairies all of which have been inspected on several occasions and found satisfactory.

It would be far better if there were one public Slaughter-house which could be more easily supervised and kept under observation than several scattered throughout the Town.

HOUSE REFUSE.

This is collected once a week and taken to Lord's Meadow. I again ask the Council to insist that their bye-law is carried out, which requires that all ashbins placed outside houses should be properly covered. The present method of any odd pail, box or tin with no cover being used is most insanitary. On a windy day, with the help of the numerous dogs scavenging, a large amount of refuse is scattered throughout the streets.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is obtained from Bow and has been frequently tested and is of a good quality. No complaints have been received. A few houses obtain their supply from wells, which are properly protected and are not liable to contamination. The water from these has been tested and found satisfactory.

Owing to the carelessness of people leaving taps running it has been found advisable to turn the water off at the main at night. As very few houses have storage tanks, this is extremely dangerous in case of fire, and so a doubtful economy.

DRAINAGE.

All the sewerage of the Town is disposed of by broad irrigation over Lord's Meadow, with the exception of that of Fordton, which drains into the Mill Leat. This latter is unsatisfactory and has recently been inspected by a representative from the Ministry of Health, from whom you will shortly receive a report.

In quite a large number of the Water Closets there is no flushing cistern provided. Several have been remedied in the last few months, but the bye-law should be enforced in every case, and every Water Closet provided with one. In addition in some cases drains running under the floors are made of clay pipes and not iron as they should be according to regulations as less likely to perish.

NUISANCES.

There have been 24 cases of Nuisances and 36 have been abated.

FACTORIES, ETC.

The Factories and Workshops have all been inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

SCHOOLS.

All these have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. L. HUGO, M.O.H.

Crediton, April, 1921.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920 and previous Years.

Name of District—Crediton Urban

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered, in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.				Of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages	
			Number.	Rate.					No.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	No.	Rate
					No.	Rate.						
1916	3487		43	12.3					4	93.0	54	16.9
1917	3375		34	10.1					5	147.0	55	16.3
1918	3503		46	13.1					4	86.9	61	19.5
1919	3458		42	12.1					3	71.4	57	17.1
1920	3452		76	22.0					7	92.1	53	15.3

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water), 2,552.
Total population at all ages, 3,487. } At Census,
Total families or separate occupiers, } 1911.

TABLE III.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1920 in the
Crediton Urban District.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One
Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes { Certified { Uncertified										
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Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough... ..							I			
Diphtheria and Croup										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)										
Convulsions	I									
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis				I						
Pneumonia (all forms)										
Diarrhoea										
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis				I						
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations										
Premature Birth	3									
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus										
Other Causes										
Totals	4			2	6		I			7

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 71 ; Illegitimate, 5

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 7 ; Illegitimate Infants, 0

